

NEWS JOURNAL

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MARCH 2008



Bruce T. Jones
District #4

Just over three years ago, we the residents of Cottonwood Heights made a major decision. We decided to govern ourselves and thus be able to evaluate and implement the choices that impact us most directly as neighbors. We set ourselves apart as citizens of a city that would provide the services we want by the methods we prefer. At the same time we made that decision, we selected five of our number to serve the citizenry as city council members and to make the difficult decisions that impact us collectively.

Since the time of incorporation, January 15, 2005, the city council has made many decisions that

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have determined how the city is organized and administered. We hired a City Manager and participated in the hiring of many other statutory and support personnel. We enacted city ordinances and a master plan, along with numerous resolutions and agreements. We directed staff to plan and carry out numerous events, including Butlerville Days; and to make customer service the number one goal of the city office. We participated in getting the question of whether to form a new school district on the ballot. We appointed commissions and committees and met with many groups and individuals for informational meetings or to respond to questioning. While decisions have not always been unanimous, we have remained agreeable and mutually supportive.

One of the agreements we entered into shortly after incorporation was a contract with Salt Lake County for law enforcement services. That contract was approved by the five of us along with Sheriff Kennard and the county council; but that decision has proved to be divisive and controversial for the citizens of our new city. Now, after enormous amounts of time in study and research, we have decided to opt-out of that contract and adopt a

self-provide model to best serve the interests of the city.

Our decision to study a self-providing model of law enforcement was met by immediate opposition. Many hearings have been packed and have become somewhat harsh on occasion. Charges and counter-charges have been hurled. Emails and phone calls have generated considerable heat. Feelings have been wounded and some wedges have been driven that could impact other aspects of city government and citizen interaction, if allowed to fester and not resolved quickly and amicably. It is obvious we will not all agree on all decisions, but hopefully, we can agree about the need to look forward and continue to build our city.

Although opinions differed among city residents on this important and complex matter, the decision by the city council to self-provide was unanimous. We expect residents to evaluate and hold us responsible for our decisions, including that one, and we are confident that if that happens, it will ultimately be found that the study, deliberations, and public input leading to that decision

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CITY INFORMATION: City Council Members

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CITY MANAGER –

Liane Stillman
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CALL DIRECT:

City Manager	545-4160
Deputy City Manager	545-4165
City Planning	545-4172
Recorder	545-4162
Treasurer	545-4175
Finance Director	545-4177
Code Enforcement	833-8376
Customer Service	545-4154
Public Information	545-4163

To hear the agenda for the next city council meeting call: 545-4155

For the planning commission agenda call 545-4156

For details about the agendas, check our web site:
www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

NUMBERS TO KNOW:

Emergency:	911
Sheriff Dispatch:	743-7000
Fire Authority:	743-7200
Animal Control:	833-8376
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CHPD BULLETIN

CITY CREATES CHPD AND APPOINTS CHIEF

After long months of study and deliberations, the Cottonwood Heights' City Council officially created the Cottonwood Heights Police Department (CHPD) and appointed a Chief of Police at their regularly scheduled business meeting on Tuesday, February 12.

In commenting on this action, Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore, Jr., stated, "It has taken a long time to get to this point and it's a decision the council members have wrestled with individually and collectively. It's probably impossible to calculate the hours expended by the council and staff in arriving at a decision to become a self-providing city for law enforcement; but we



Chief Russo and family at swearing in

feel strongly it is the right thing to do and we're now moving forward without reservation."

The first item of business for the council was to pass a resolution amending Title 2.130 of the Cottonwood Heights' Code of Ordinances to "...establish(ed) the Cottonwood Heights' Police

Department and the position of chief of police, who shall serve as the department head...and be responsible for the administration of the department....The chief of police shall report to and be subject to supervision by the city manager." (Full text of the Title 2.130 amendments is available

at www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov.)

Following formal creation of the CHPD, the council appointed Lt. Robbie Russo, currently a Salt Lake County Deputy Sheriff, to be Chief of Police for Cottonwood Heights.

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Emergency Preparedness Efforts Continue

HAM Operator's needed

The city Emergency Preparedness Committee has announced the successful organization of a HAM Emergency Responders Division. At their last meeting the HAM operators set the following two priorities: (1) To communicate the nature and parameters of any disaster to the outside world, so the kind of assistance needed can be sent; (2) To establish communication with the elected officials for continuity of government (proper management of any disaster will help in the qualification process for FEMA reimbursement as long as decisions are made in conformance with the emergency plan).

Any HAM operators wishing to be

involved in this exciting planning process are welcome to participate.

The contact is Roger Kehr: rogerkehr@gmail.com. Future

plans include frequency tests and acquisition of communication equipment for back-up.



The city extends special thanks to Citizen Corps member Bob Fowler for arranging with AVERT to donate blankets, towels, and wraps for the new logistics trailer.

APPLY NOW FOR NEXT YEAR'S YOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Teenagers who will be in grades 9 – 12 next year are invited to apply for membership in the Cottonwood Heights Youth City Council. Applications are available on the city website and are due by March 8, 2008. An orientation/information meeting will be held that day in the City Council Chambers. Go to the website for more information: www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov. Click on City Government, then Youth Council.



GET INVOLVED IN RELAY FOR LIFE

The second annual American Cancer Society East Bench Relay For Life is set for June 13 & 14, 2008 at the sports fields behind the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center. That's still three months off, but it takes time to plan, recruit participants, and solicit donations prior to those dates.

This article is an invitation to the residents of Cottonwood Heights to once again respond and assist in raising money used to battle cancer. One can contribute money, solicit funds, form a participating team, or volunteer to assist with the logistics of the event.

For example: fund raising for the Relay for Life is done prior to the event itself, and a goal of \$25,000 has been set to achieve by May 30. This year, Stone Surface Specialists, an East Bench company, has issued a challenge to other businesses in the area. They have committed 10% of their profit for April to the American

Cancer Society and challenge other businesses to do the same.

For participants: teams must be formed to participate in the all-night walk. Ten are needed for the ideal team and they must be prepared to attend the event the evening of Friday, June 13 and stay over until Saturday morning, June 14. This is a great time to socialize, eat goodies, and play games while waiting for a turn to walk the night away.

To volunteer: putting on an event such as this requires many heads and hands to see that activities are coordinated, schedules are met, regulations are adhered to, money is raised, and everyone has a good time in the process. If you are more inclined to volunteer than be a participant, there is plenty for you to do.

Additional information is available and opportunities for participation can be explored by contacting; Susannah Hutchins at shutchins@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov or 545-4154.



PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

for March, 2008

Kevin Smith, Deputy City Manager, recently stated, "This winter has been unusually hard on our roads. We appreciate your patience as we make the needed repairs. If you have a road maintenance request or would like to report a pothole, please call at 545-4193."

He also announced that crews are currently working on preparation for spring and summer pavement work, to include a long section of Fort Union Blvd. To view the areas of the city that will be repaved see the map on the city website under the Public Works link.

Projects planned for future bidding include:

- Storm drain work on Big Cottonwood Canyon Road
- Pavement work on Fort Union Blvd.
- Cross gutter replacement in various areas of the city
- Landscaping of island on Union Park and 1300 East



New School District Transition

PUBLIC MEETINGS SET

Significant progress is being made in transitioning the Jordan School District into two districts. As previously reported, the Asset Transition Teams required by statute have been appointed to represent both the new district and the remaining district. DeVon Sanderson and Mike Shelton of Cottonwood Heights are on that committee. The two teams are tasked with equitably dividing the physical and financial assets of Jordan District between the two remaining districts by mid-summer. Team meetings are generally open to the public and the times are posted on the Jordan School District Website. Excellent progress is being made toward avoiding arbitration to resolve issues.

Additionally, the committee of east side mayors has appointed an Educational Transition Team. This team is meeting with the school community councils to gather information and ideas about how the new district should be operated. This team will form standing and ad hoc committees to address specific areas of interest. Their primary goal is to develop recommendations for consideration by the new school board.

This team is lead by Dr. John Bennion, former Superintendent of the Salt Lake City School District. He is assisted by Dr. Rickie McCandless and Dr. Sandra Peterson, both former school district administrators.

Citizens interested in participating in this process should contact their school community council chair.

Public meetings to provide further information are scheduled for:

- March 5 – Hillcrest High School
- March 6 – Willow Springs Elementary
- March 12 – Brighton High School
- March 13 – Jordan High School

The public is invited to attend any of these meetings.



March City Council Meeting Schedule

All March city council business meetings will be held in the new council chambers, 1256 East Fort Union Blvd., Ste. 300. The work meetings will be held in the conference room at the same address but in Ste. 250. The meeting schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 4 – Work meeting 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 11 – Work meeting 6 p.m.

Business meeting 7 p.m.

- Tuesday, March 18 – Work meeting 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 25– Work meeting 6 p.m.

Business meeting 7 p.m.

NO COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 1ST

NEW SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Persons interested in being a candidate for the new school district Board of Education are required to file their candidacy between Friday, March 7 and Monday, March 17, 2008, at the office of the Salt lake County Clerk, 2001 South State, #1100. Filing must be done between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the weekdays indicated. The filing fee is \$25.

Prior to filing, candidates are encouraged to check with the Salt Lake County Clerk for specific details about the seat in which they have an interest. Maps and other information are available at www.clerk.slco.org.

The election is scheduled for June 24, 2008. There will be no primary. There are geographical boundaries for each district and candidates must live within the boundaries of the district in which they run. For this first election only, the odd-numbered precincts will be for four year terms and even-numbered precincts for two years terms.

Members of the new school board will begin official service on July 15, 2008 and will serve for two or four years, depending on the precinct they represent. The current Jordan Board of Education will continue to function for one year concurrent with the new board, but will cease to exist on July 15, 2009.



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CHPD BULLETIN

Chief Russo began his tenure on Tuesday, Feb. 19, after formally resigning from the Sheriff's Department.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All residents of Cottonwood Heights should be aware that the city has not formally severed its contract relationship with the Sheriff's office and that office will continue to provide law enforcement for the city for at least six months. For police assistance, calls should still go to the Sheriff's office.

For information about the status of CHPD, Chief Russo can be contacted at the city offices. He is now working on putting the department together to be ready for the target start date of September 1, 2008. Chief Russo is following a council approved time-line that includes: equipment purchase and delivery, personnel hiring, office space acquisition, policy manual

development, etc.

Chief Russo has been with the County Sheriff's Office since January of 1985 and advanced in rank from a Patrol Deputy through Sergeant to an appointment as a Lieutenant in October, 2001. His assignments have included patrol, Juvenile Gang Unit, DEA Task Force, Homicide Task Force, Auto Theft Supervisor, Narcotics Supervisor, Watch Commander, Executive Officer, and Chief of Police Services under a city/county contract relationship for Cottonwood Heights.

"Chief Russo comes to Cottonwood Heights with a solid understanding of our city and what city officials expect of law enforcement for our citizens," according to Mayor Cullimore. "He has done an admirable job of creating a positive atmosphere for city-oriented police work during his time as the Chief of Police Services, under our current contract. The council is confident

that atmosphere of service will carry over into the CHPD that is now being organized under his direction."

The new chief was educated at Westminster College in Behavioral Science/Psychology prior to beginning his law enforcement career. He has continued his education at the University of Utah with study in Sociology/Criminology and will receive a B.S. Degree this Fall.

During his 23 years with the Sheriff's office he received numerous awards including: Citation of Honor, Sheriff's Star (twice), Medal of Distinction, and Officer of the Year. Adding to his exemplary work he has continued his training with certificates for completing classes in computer and technical skills, emergency medical techniques, executive management, and drug enforcement. He has also received Advanced Officer Training and has been an instructor at P.O.S.T.

Head's Up - Easter Is Early This Year

The annual Cottonwood Heights Easter Events are scheduled for Easter Weekend at the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center. Easter Egg Hunts, Easter Bunnies, Ice Skating, Pizza, Fast Food Coupons, Face Painting and Prizes are all part of this year's festivities.

TEEN TIME begins at 8 p.m. Friday, March 21 with FREE Coke and Pizza as long as it lasts. A flashlight egg hunt will begin about 8:30(bring your own flashlight). Search for eggs and prizes, including coupons for your favorite fast food fare. After finding the loot, you are invited to a FREE ice skate.

THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD EVEN IF WEATHER IS BAD!!!!

THE YOUNGER CROWD is invited to assemble at 8:30 Saturday morning, March 22. Face painting and the Easter Bunny will be part of the early activities. At 9:00 a.m. an egg and prize hunt will be held. Bring a camera and take pictures of your children with the Easter Bunny (or with the Mayor and Council if you are so inclined).

NOTICE - IF WEATHER IS BAD, PLEASE COME TO THE "DRIVE-THRU" FOR EASTER EGGS AND PRIZES!!!

The city's Easter Events Committee of Chairperson Carolyn Wold; Linda Kosky, Nooshan Narimani; Laura Seely; Angi Williamson; Beverly Jensen; Mike Peterson; Dan Morzewlewski; Lyse' Durant; Bud Reddick; city representative Suzannah Hutchins; the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center; and the Youth City Council have planned a bigger and better Easter celebration for 2008.



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were well reasoned. All views were heard and seriously considered; but differences of opinion can make some feel like they won and others feel like they lost. In the end, the obligation is the same. "The decision has been made to self-provide law enforcement services for Cottonwood Heights, and now we need to work together to make it work." We have the opportunity and obligation to work collectively to make CHPD the best law enforcement entity in the state. It's time to heal the rifts that resulted from the different opinions and to combine our best efforts to produce a superior product. If the interests of Cottonwood Heights are to be our priority, we cannot let this issue cause any of us to quit participating in the process. Otherwise, the city will be the loser.

For any of us to think that all decisions will be unanimous or that our view will prevail is unrealistic. We all benefit from the synergy of collective decision making, regardless of the ultimate decision, and that principle is central to our form of government and to our ability to meet the goals we envisioned when the process of incorporation began. Hopefully the five of us on the council and those of you who elected us to these positions will all recognize that agreement is not always achievable, but effective implementation of decisions is enhanced as we heal the wounds and begin anew with the next project.